

A memory stores a hash value of content management data. When an IEEE1394 interface authenticates a personal computer connected thereto via a network, the IEEE1394 transmits content management data to the personal computer while receiving a hash data of the content management data from the personal computer. The IEEE1394 interface then determines whether the received hash value of the content management data matches the stored hash value of the content management data. This arrangement prevents the unauthorized copying of content data, and limits the number of uses of the content data.